

MEGACE Now Coded as Hormone Treatment for Cancer Patients

As many seasoned registrars may recall Megace was not coded as treatment but was rather considered an ancillary drug—an appetite stimulant for patients suffering from anorexia, cachexia, or significant weight loss.

In addition to this use, it is also a synthetic progestin. According to SEER*Rx, **Megace should be coded as first course treatment (hormone) when given alone or in combination with other antineoplastic drugs.** Megace is most often given for advanced breast and endometrial cancers, but its use is not limited to advanced/metastatic/recurrent disease.

Per Ask a SEER Registrar, Megace can be used for many other types of cancers at the physician's discretion. When reviewing records, you may see that it was prescribed for patients with non-malignant conditions such as AIDS or weight issues. **If Megace is prescribed to a cancer patient, then code as hormone treatment.**

References: SEER*Rx Interactive Antineoplastic Drugs Database and Ask a SEER Registrar (ASW08752) 09/02/14